



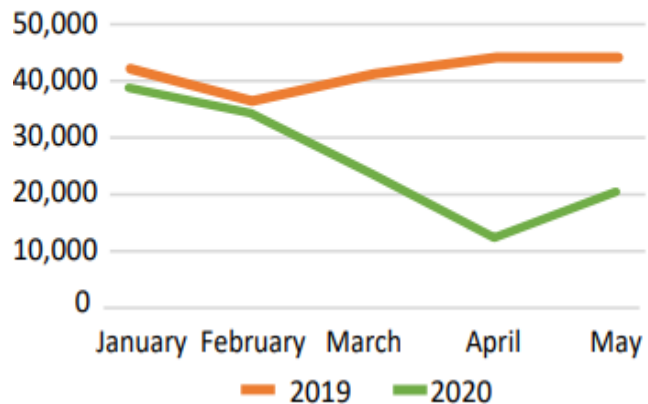
Children's Medical Services

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program 2021

With increasing attention on the global coronavirus outbreak, we wanted to share information about preventing childhood lead poisoning during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Many sources of Lead can be found in or around the home; during the COVID-19 outbreak many families are staying home, increasing their exposure to lead paint and dust. During this time indoors, families are remodeling which increases the child's risk of lead poisoning [COVID-19 Resources \(ca.gov\)](https://www.ca.gov). With families staying home there is a decrease in children being tested for lead. The graph to the right demonstrates that in the month of April 2020 there was a significant decline in children being tested, compared to April 2019.

Number of Children Under 6 Years Old Tested per Month in 2019 and 2020²



As a reminder children should be screened at:

- 12 months
- 24 months
- If the parent answers “yes” or “don’t know” to the following question *Does your child live or spend time in a place built before 1978?*
- If the parent requests
- If refugee or recent immigrant
- If there is a known lead exposure in family members or close contacts

[Strategies to Address Declining Blood Lead Screening Rates During COVID-19 \(ca.gov\)](https://www.ca.gov)

CLPPP Newsletter Spring 2021

Why screen and test for lead?

There is no safe level of lead. Low levels of lead are associated with neurodevelopmental deficits. ([Screening Regulations \(ca.gov\)](https://www.ca.gov)) Lead exposure can cause lower IQ, decreased ability to pay attention and underperformance in school. [Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/leadprevention/) Primary prevention is the best hope to mitigate the impact of this preventable disease.

Equity Spotlight Check out this American Public Health Association health equity fact sheet:

https://www.apha.org/-/media/Files/PDF/topics/equity/Childrens_Environmental_Health_Fact_Sheet.ashx

“The fact sheet gives recommendations on combatting the existing disparities that worsen such health impacts for children of color and those who live in underserved communities. Those recommendations include enforcing routine testing and inspection of homes for such environmental hazards as radon, lead and mold.” — APHA

Blood Lead Testing: Capillary vs Venous [Management Guidelines on Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention \(ca.gov\)](https://www.ca.gov)

Test type	Draw/ Sample Types
Screening	Capillary or Venous
Confirmatory	Venous
Monitoring	Venous

CHDP/ CLPPP Office support

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